

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
APRIL 27, 2004  
REGULAR MEETING  
DRAFT

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met in regular session with Chairman Sauls presiding. Present were Commissioners Thaell, Maloy, Winchester, Proctor, Grippa, and Rackleff. Also present were County Attorney Herb Thiele, County Administrator Parwez Alam, Deputy Clerk Bill Bogan, Jr., and Secretary Sandra C. O'Neal.

Invocation was provided by Pastor James Williams of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Thaell.

Awards and Presentations

- a. Robin Schaffer, Friends of the Library member, presented a check in the amount of \$100,000 to the Board for the Leroy Collins Leon County Public Library - \$50,000 for library services and \$50,000 towards the purchase of a new Bookmobile. The Board recognized Helen Moeller, Library Director, and congratulated the Library on receiving the 2004 Betty Davis Miller Award for the Library's "BabyTime" story time program.
- b. Chairman Sauls presented the attached resolution to Jack Rehwinkel, Public Works, designating May 16 - 22, 2004 as Public Works Week. Ms. Rehwinkel announced that the Public Works Rodeo is scheduled for May 10, 2004.
- c. Commissioner Grippa presented the attached resolution to Dianna Hanson from *Keep Tallahassee-Leon County Beautiful*, recognizing their efforts to educate the community on Solid Waste, Recycling, Litter-Reduction, and Beautification Programs. Ms. Hanson thanked the County for stepping up when the Legislature reduced funding for the program, and informed them that for every \$1 donated, the program receives \$69 in-kind services.
- d. Commissioner Grippa presented the attached resolution to the McElhenny family designating May 8 - 15, 2004 as *Motorcycle Safety Week*. Since the loss of their son, Kris, the family has worked to emphasize the need for motorcycle safety awareness - "Be Bright - Look for the Light."
- e. Chairman Sauls recognized Agatha Muse-Salters for becoming Governor-Elect of the Florida District's Pilot Club International for 2004-2005, which will lead to Governor of Florida District Pilot Club International for 2005-2006. The Pilot Club is a service-by-choice for brain-related disorders.

- f. Chairman Sauls recognized Sheila Sisco, Comcast camera operator, for her efforts in televising County meetings for the past three years. She will be leaving Comcast to attend FSU.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael and carried unanimously, 7/0, to approve the following consent agenda with the exception of Item 19, which was addressed as described:

1. Approval of Minutes

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Minutes of April 13, 2004 Regular Meeting.

2. Approval of Bills and Vouchers

The Board approved Option 1: Approve payment of bills and vouchers submitted for approval for April 27, 2004, and pre-approve payment of bills and vouchers for the period April 28, 2004 through May 10, 2004: \$2,946,376.80

3. Acceptance of the Mid-Year Financial Report and Preliminary FY 04/05 Revenue Estimates

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the Mid-Year Financial Report and Preliminary FY 04/05 Revenue Estimates.

4. Ratification of Mid-Year Funding Request of \$2,500 for Sports-My-Choice Tallahassee Eagles Travel Basketball Program

The Board approved Option 1: Ratify actions taken by the Board at the April 20, 2004 District I Community Meeting and approve the mid-year funding request from the Sports-My-Choice Tallahassee Eagles in the amount of \$2,500 from the General Fund Contingency Account, and the associated budget amendment: (See Discussion Items by Commissioner Grippa, Item f: A vote was taken to take the money from District 4 Commissioner Grippa's Office Account and not from General Fund Contingency.)

5. Acceptance of Department of Revenue's Child Support Enforcement Program Incentive Award and Approval of a Budget Resolution and Associated Budget Amendment Request

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the DOR Incentive Award of \$4,177 and approve the attached budget resolution and budget amendment request:

6. Approval to Fund a School Resource Officer for the COPS In-School Program

The Board approved Option 1: Authorize the submittal of a COPS-in-Schools Program grant application.

7. Acceptance of the Annual Audit and Financial Report (FY 2002/03)

The Board approved Options 1 and 2: 1) Accept the FY 2002/03 Annual Audit and Financial Report; 2) Authorize the Chairman to sign the letter in response to the audit findings in the management letter.

8. Approval to Award the Bid for Planning Commission Counsel to Rose, Sundstrom & Bentley, P.A.

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the recommendation of Rose, Sundstrom & Bentley, LLP as Planning Commission Counsel.

9. Request to Schedule a Workshop on the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan on Tuesday, May 11, 2004 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

10. Approval to Renew the Agreement with Open Door Women's Clinic for the Distribution of Funds from the Choose Life License Plate Program for Fiscal Year 2003/04

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the contract agreement for the allocation of \$19,985 from the Choose Life License Plates Program to Open Door Women's Clinic for FY 03-04.

11. Approval of Agreement with Tallahassee Habitat for Humanity, Inc. for Down-Payment Assistance with "Sweat Equity" Self-Help in the amount of \$200,000

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the \$200,000 contract with Habitat for Humanity for down payment assistance with "Sweat Equity" self help.

12. Acceptance of the Health and Human Services' FY 2002/03 Housing Annual Report

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the Health and Human Services' Housing Program's FY 2002-2003 Annual Report.

13. Acceptance of \$50,000 Donation from the "Friends of the Library"

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the \$50,000 donation from the Friends of the Library and adopt the attached resolution and associated budget amendment request:

14. Ratification of Actions Taken at the April 13, 2004 Workshop on the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center

The Board approved Options 1 and 2: 1) Ratify Board actions taken at the April 13, 2004 Workshop on the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Authority; 2) Direct staff to bring back an interlocal agreement with the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Authority for Board approval.

The Board took the following action at the workshop:

- Support the proposed Legislation regarding the restructuring of the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Authority - seven appointments by FSU President; two appointments by Florida A&M President; two appointments by Leon County Board of County Commissioners Chairman; two appointments by the Tallahassee City Commission Mayor
- Request an amendment to the Bill language that inserts "civic, governmental, educational, recreational, convention, and entertainment facility" into Section 15 of the proposed Bill which describes the purpose of the Civic Center; (later it was learned that an amendment to the Bill could run the risk of the bill not being heard at all, so it was suggested that this language be included in the interlocal agreement instead of an amendment to the Bill)
- Request that the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center continue to be used for community purposes
- Request an interlocal agreement with the Civic Center Authority that resolves the County's ongoing financial obligations to the Authority. (The County Attorney's Office is drafting an interlocal agreement to be brought back to the Board.)

15. Request to Approve a New Leon County Management Internship Program

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the establishment of the Leon County Management Internship Program.

16. Request to Schedule a Workshop on an Agricultural Classification and Silviculture Permit Process for September 14, 2004 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the request to schedule an Agricultural Classification and Silviculture Permit Processing Workshop with the Property Appraiser on September 14, 2004 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

17. Approval of Five-Year Extension of the Elevator Maintenance Agreement with ThyssenKrupp Elevator

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the extension of the elevator maintenance agreement with ThyssenKrupp Elevator for five (5) additional years at a 1.3% increase and authorize the Board Chairman to execute.

18. Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Pre-Application for Authorization of a Sewer Service Area for Properties Located at the SW Corner of the Intersection of Tower Road and Capital Circle NW on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule a public hearing on the pre-application for June 8, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the pre-application for authorization of a sewer service area for properties located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Tower Road and Capital Circle NW.

19. Approval to Award the Bid and Continuing Supply Contract to Gaines & Son Striping for Installation and Maintenance of Thermoplastic Striping and Pavement Marking Services

Commissioner Grippa pulled this item for discussion and questioned the total anticipated amount of the contract and whether or not it would be more cost-effective for the County to purchase the materials directly from the manufacturer.

The Board engaged in considerable discussion regarding:

- Would the continuing supply contract need to be rebid if the County purchased the materials with Gaines & Sons Striping providing the installation and maintenance
- Would the contractor be able to guarantee the work if the material was provided by the County
- Discussion regarding the total amount of anticipated funds for the annual contract.

Commissioner Grippa moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Thael to continue the item and bring back information regarding the cost of purchasing materials under the State contract.

County Administrator Alam recommended that the Board approve the item and bring back information on the comparison of costs – FDOT Continuing Supply or the County purchasing materials and bidding out the labor.

Commissioner Grippa then withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Grippa to approve Option 1 and carried unanimously, 7/0, to approve Option 1 (as modified in the underline): Award of bid and continuing supply contract, not to exceed \$169,695, to Gaines and Sons Striping for installation and maintenance of thermoplastic striping and pavement marking services and authorize the Chairman to execute.

Staff was directed to bring back comparative analysis within six months to either increase the amount of the continuing supply contract or have the County purchase the materials and contract out the labor.

20. Approval of Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$195,000 for Final Payment of the Miccosukee Road Phase II Capital Improvement Project

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the attached budget amendment in the amount of \$195,000 to provide sufficient funds for Miccosukee Road Phase II.

21. Approval of Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$80,000 for Implementation of Proposed Beechridge Trail Utility 2/3 Project

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the attached budget amendment in the amount of \$80,000 for implementation of the proposed Beechridge Trail 2/3 Utility Project.

22. Approval to Provide Funds in the Amount of \$158,681 to Construct the Gum Road Sewer Extension

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the attached budget amendment in the amount of \$158,681 for the Gum Road Sewer Extension construction project.

23. Approval of Lease Extension Between the Seminole Radio Control Club, Inc. and Leon County

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the lease extension (Amendment No. 8) between the Seminole Radio Control Club and Leon County, Florida.

24. Acceptance of Lower Capital Cascade Greenway Design Development Plan and Report

The Board approved Option 1: Accept the Lower Capital Cascade Greenway Design Development Plan and Report and direct staff to proceed with permitting and construction for Greenway components afforded within the existing available budget of \$248,649.

25. Request to Approve Travel Expenses for Commissioner Rackleff to Attend Tallahassee-Leon County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council Annual City Trip to Madison, Wisconsin on June 2-4, 2004

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the travel expenses as requested.

Citizens to Be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items (3-minute; non-discussion by Commission)

Gary Lloyd, Sierra Club, distributed materials regarding Global Warming and recommended that the County begin initiating programs locally to reduce global warming. One such program, Global Warming Response Plan, includes suggestions regarding transportation, electric power, and building construction.

#### General Business

26. Board Direction on Changing the Effective Date for County Policy 03-18, Grant to Active Duty Personnel, From October 1, 2002 to October 2001

This item seeks Board direction on whether to change the effective date for Board Policy No. 03-18, Grant to Active Duty Military Personnel, from October 1, 2002 to October 1, 2001. This would then include those military personnel who were called to active duty immediately following the events of September 11, 2001.

Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Winchester and carried unanimously, 7/0, to approve Option 1: Approve the revising the effective date for Board Policy No. 03-18, Grant to Active Duty Military Personnel, from October 1, 2002 to an effective date of October 1, 2001.

Commissioner Rackleff asked how many applicants applied for the cash grant and for property tax rebate under Policy No. 03-18. Larry Davis, Director of Veteran's Affairs, explained that 45 claims have been paid to property owners, totaling \$25,753 (averaging \$527 per owner); 76 claims were paid to non-property owners (totaling \$30,000, averaging \$394 per claim). The sum total is 121 claims and Mr. Davis advised that staff is still taking measures to get the word out about the grant program to the military and their families.

Commissioner Grippa advised that the Legislature plans to adopt a State actual property tax and grant program this session. He commended staff and remarked that Leon County's Policy has become a model around the country. Mr. Davis reported that this grant policy has become the "buzz" from the military in Iraq. County Administrator Alam pointed out that this program was reported in the *Florida Trend*.

27. Approval of Submission of Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Grant Application

This item requests Board authorization to apply for grant funds from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) to acquire either the Fallschase floodplain or the Major Sinks properties and the Gibby Tracts. All of the proposed acquisitions are in the County and these grants will reduce Blueprint 2000 expenditures. (Blueprint 2000 itself is not eligible to apply for these funds.)

Commissioner Grippa moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Proctor to approve Option 1: Authorize staff to apply for grant funds from the Florida

Communities Trust (FCT) for the Fallschase floodplain and the Blueprint 2000 Major Sinks and Gibby properties.

County Administrator Alam explained that the logic for the recommendation is that staff is still working with the new owners of Fallschase Development and depending where that ends up, the County may withdraw one or two of the grant applications. Since the deadline is May 5, 2004, the County should apply for all of the projects.

Commissioner Rackleff remarked that the Gibby tract is a simpler, straightforward purchase while the Fallschase purchase continues to be problematic. He wanted to ensure that the County does not jeopardize the major sinks and the Gibby tract by including Fallschase in this. Mr. Alam stated that staff will apply for all three grants and he hopes that Fallschase will become a simpler purchase. He will bring the item back to the Board at some point in time and probably one would be withdrawn.

Commissioner Grippa pointed out that the County's goal is to increase the supply of lots in the urban service area and hopefully, if something could be worked out with Fallschase, it would help the County meet the demands.

The motion on the floor carried unanimously, 7/0.

28. Presentation on and Acceptance of the Community Assessment Report on the Southern Strategy Area

This agenda item requests Board acceptance of the Community Assessment Report from AngelouEconomic (AE), the consultants hired by Leon County and the City of Tallahassee to perform the economic development plan for the Southern Strategy Area.

Sean Garrison, consultant with AngelouEconomics, presented a detailed report on the Southern Strategy Area based on input from the Southern Strategy Area. The Economic Development Plan Advisory Committee and focus groups met and surveys and interviews were conducted. Also meetings were held with additional stakeholders including officials from Florida A&M University, Florida State University, and Tallahassee Community College. Mr. Garrison explained that the purpose of this trip to Tallahassee is to present the community assessment draft. He has met with the advisory committee, City/County Code Enforcement Officers, City/County Housing, and the Tallahassee Police Department in an effort to understand some of the issue that have been discovered in the initial assessment. Mr. Garrison will return in May to present the draft recommendations. In an effort to allow for timely dissemination of information concerning the project, a website was created entitled [www.growSSA.com](http://www.growSSA.com).



Commissioner Proctor referred to the report, which included results of the survey. He engaged in discussion regarding major concerns in the Southern Strategy: educational aspect, growth management issues, value housing, public transportation, and job availability.

Further discussion ensued regarding the gateway to the community, crime, affordable housing, code enforcement, additional policing, basic skills training, and other issues in relationship to the Southern Strategy Area. It was noted that the City and the County do not share the same vision for economic development.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Winchester and carried unanimously, 6/0 (Commissioner Grippa was out of Chambers), to approve Option 1: Accept the Community Assessment Report on the Southern Strategy Area.

29. Consideration of the City of Tallahassee Annexation of the Courtesy Car Dealership

This item involves Board consideration of a proposed Voluntary Annexation petition by the owner of approximately seven (7) acres located on the Southwest corner of Tennessee Street and Capital Circle Northwest.

Commissioner Winchester moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Maloy to approve Option 1: Do not object to the City annexation of the property occupied by the Courtesy Nissan Oldsmobile Volvo Dealership located at the southwest corner of West Tennessee Street and Capital Circle Northwest.

Commissioner Thael referred to Board direction on July 31, 2001 regarding annexation requests and questioned whether the application meets all the requirements. County Administrator Alam explained that it had met the requirements.

Commissioner Thael moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to continue this item to include further information and to ensure that the application meets the Board's requirements.

Rick Bateman, appeared before the Board to represent his client, Courtesy Nissan Oldsmobile Volvo Dealership, and stated that his client has met all obligations.

Following some discussion, Commissioner Thael withdrew the substitute motion.

The original motion on the floor carried 6 – 1 (Commissioner Grippa voted in opposition).

30. Expirations, Vacancies, and Appointments to Various Boards and Committees

Airport Gateway Corridor Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Rackleff appointed Pete Butler; Commissioner Sauls appointed Robert Rinehart; Commissioner Winchester appointed Kent Zaiser. Commissioners Maloy and Proctor continued their appointments.

Fort Braden Community Center Board of Directors

Commissioner Rackleff reappointed Phylis Adams; Commissioner Winchester appointed Kathy Dispennette. Commissioners Sauls and Maloy continued their appointments.

GEM Citizens' User Group

Commissioners Maloy and Proctor continued their appointments

Lake Jackson Recreation Council

Commissioners Grippa and Proctor continued their appointments.

Neighborhood Recognition Committee

Commissioner Maloy continued his appointment. Commissioner Thael announced that his appointment of Don Axelrad could not accept the appointment and he would appoint Kitty Carter.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Team

Commissioner Maloy continued his appointment.

Science Advisory Committee

Commissioner Proctor reappointed Pat Tucker. Chairman Sauls continued her appointment.

Septic System Advisory Committee

Commissioner Sauls appointed Fred Malphurs. Commissioners Maloy and Proctor continued their appointments.

Public Hearings

31. First and Only Public Hearing on a Proposed Ordinance to Establish a Leon County Lot Mowing Ordinance

Pursuant to the attached legal advertisement, a public hearing was conducted to establish code regulations and procedures to regulate vacant and neglected residential lots that have overgrown weeds, grasses, shrubbery and other pollen-producing vegetation.

Commissioner Winchester moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Thael to approve Option 1: Conduct the first public and only public hearing to establish code regulations and procedures to regulate vacant and neglected

residential lots with overgrown weeds, grasses, shrubbery and other pollen-producing vegetation and adopt the proposed ordinance.

Bob Milner, Harriett Drive, appeared and voiced concern about an abandoned lot near his home, which is unsafe and unsightly. He stated that he would be appreciative if the Board would assist or at least mow the lot.

James A. Moore, Jr. 2657 Stonegate Drive, spoke in favor of the proposed mowing ordinance. He stated that the Code Enforcement Board has no tools to provide enforcement.

Commissioner Grippa asked how the ordinance would affect areas that cannot be mowed such as Lafayette Oaks. County Attorney Thiele explained that residents cannot cut within Zone A; if a public nuisance was outside of Zone A, the mowing ordinance could be enforced. Commissioner Grippa wanted to ensure that unsightly and unsafe property/lots could be forced to clean up but that Zone A would be protected and not mowed. County Attorney Thiele responded that he would make the clarification in a supplement to the ordinance to be brought back to the Board, but recommended that the Board adopt the ordinance tonight.

Commissioner Rackleff wanted to know if the ordinance would conflict with the vegetative buffering requirements. In the conflict section, language states that if the ordinance conflicts with the Comp Plan, the Comp Plan would prevail. He was concerned that the Comp plan may not cover all of the protections that the Board has enacted by ordinance, so he recommended that explicit language be placed near the front portion of the ordinance to avoid any misunderstanding. Mr. Thiele responded that he would bring back clarification and remarked that conservation easements and the like cannot be mowed either. He recommended that the Board approve the ordinance tonight and direct legal staff to bring back a supplement at some point. Commissioner Winchester modified his motion to reflect this.

Commissioner Proctor stated that the ordinance does not speak to abandoned swimming pools, which could be hazardous, and he wanted to know why the Code Enforcement Board (CEB) and the GEM group did not support the proposed ordinance. He felt there was a difference between an abandoned building or swimming pool and a lot that was overrun with vegetation and left to nature.

Emma Smith, GEM, advised that there is current policy regarding the abatement of an unsafe structure. She explained that that the CEB were concerned with management and regulation of the ordinance, and felt it would be a waste of time. There was also concern regarding payment of liens and Ms. Smith pointed out that the GEM citizens users group brought up issues about protecting the homeowners as well as managing the number of complaints.

Mr. Thiele explained that the proposed ordinance would apply to all residential zoning districts listed in the agenda request; which is everything except basically agricultural, urban fringe, and rural. Commissioners Sauls and Winchester remarked that the Aides are receiving complaints about overgrown and abandoned properties. As explained by Mr. Thiele, the Code Enforcement Board can only levy a fine and they do not have the authority to fix the problem. The proposed ordinance would provide the CEB the ability to fix the problem and assess the landowner for costs if the owner does not fix it.

The motion on the floor carried 4 – 1 (Commissioner Proctor voted in opposition and Commissioners Maloy and Thael were out of Chambers. Later in the meeting Commissioner Thael requested that his vote reflect the affirmative on this item.) The County Attorney was directed to bring back clarification regarding Lake Protection areas.

32. Public Hearing for the Pre-Application for Authorization to Operate a Water Sewer System Serving the Properties Within the Vicinity of St. Joe, Tram, and W. W. Kelley Roads, South of Williams Road

Pursuant to legal advertisement, a public hearing was conducted.

Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff and carried unanimously, 6/0 (Commissioner Maloy was out of Chambers), to approve Option 1: Conduct the public hearing and authorize a service area for properties within the vicinity of St. Joe, Tram, and W. W. Kelley Roads south of Williams Road.

33. First and Only Public Hearing on the Repeal of Ordinance Number 03-09, Re-vesting of Conceptually Approved PUDs (Planned Unit Developments)

Pursuant to legal advertisement, a public hearing was conducted to repeal Ordinance 03-09, which effectuates the repeal of the re-vesting of conceptually approved PUDs. He referred to the attached letter from Carlton Fields Law Firm, which withdrew the one and only re-vesting application that was pending.

Commissioner Winchester moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Grippa to approve Option 1: To adopt the proposed ordinance to effect the repeal of Ordinance Number 03-09.

Mr. Thiele explained that upon adoption of the proposed ordinance, opportunities for re-vesting on the PUDs (planned unit developments) are no longer in existence because the time period or window of opportunity will have ended.

Commissioner Rackleff referred to the ordinance page 2 of 5 and noted that there is no reason for the rest of the ordinance and suggested repealing Section 1 of paragraph D. The County Attorney concurred and suggested that this would be the next step.

The motion carried unanimously, 6/0 (Commissioner Maloy was out of Chambers). The County Attorney would bring back a more comprehensive repeal.

*The Board entered discussion of General Business, Item 26.*

County Administrator

Advised that pursuant to Board direction, the problems at the transfer station have been taken care of. The "Stink Road" sign has been removed by the owner, Mr. Gibby. Director of Public Works, Tony Park, reported that tires are being washed before the trucks leave the transfer station site and they are working with the contractor to build a ramp outside the building. Mr. Parks recommended that calls be referred to Pubic Works. The Board commended staff for addressing the issues in a proactive manner.

Commissioner Grippa

- a. Commended Commissioner Rackleff on the *Letter to the Editor* in the Tallahassee Democrat where Commissioner Rackleff demonstrated love between a father and a son.
- b. Thanked Mr. Gibby for removing "Stink Road" sign on Aenon Church Road near the Transfer Station. Commissioner Grippa asked staff about dealing with the trespass issue involving Mr. Gibby since he is working and cooperating with the County. County Attorney Thiele would provide a report to the Board on the trespass issue.

Commissioner Winchester thanked Edgar Grant and other staff and noted that the Commission, when constructing the transfer station, promised residents that the odor and other issues would be addressed. He also referred to an article in the paper about an employee at the transfer site being paid a low wage of \$5.75 an hour. Mr. Park responded that the article was a miss-quote and the employee was being more and was contracted by someone else.

- c. Advised that Capital Avianics is a business that provides airplane technology supply and they are planning to relocate to Thomasville, Georgia, if the City does not allow them to expand their facility at the airport. Commissioner Gippa stated that the company has high-paying jobs, 55 employees, 30 of them are engineers, and more hiring is planned. He suggested that the Chairman bring the issue up at the Mayor/Chair meeting, and advise the Economic Development Council and the Chamber of Commerce that this is the type of business that the County would like to keep. He recommended that the Chairman write a letter to the City after staff

talks to Mr. Ingle, owner, and gets the specifics. Chairman Sauls advised that after additional information is obtained, a letter would be drafted.

- d. Advised that the County does not pay for additional licenses that are required for certain Public Works employees and suggested that the County pay for them. Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Com Winchester and carried unanimously, 7/0, to bring back an agenda item to consider paying for additional licenses of Public Works employees.
- e. Recommended a Comprehensive Plan amendment that would create an educational quadrant. Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner Winchester and carried unanimously, 7/0, that a workshop be conducted and that Planning staff move forward with a comp plan amendment that creates an educational quadrant for the next Comp Plan cycle.
- f. Commissioner Grippa requested a report, not necessarily an agenda item, on the Innovation Park incubator. He remarked that a million dollars has been dedicated to the endeavor and he would like to know the status. Chairman Sauls explained that at the last Innovation Park meeting, she asked the director to provide a report for the Commission and when it is ready, she would bring it to the Board.

Commissioner Rackleff explained that one of the sources of funding for an incubator should be Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., since it is a federally chartered company, a cooperative. He stated that one of its missions is economic development of the communities which it serves and the last time he checked, about three years ago, Talquin has done nothing in terms of direct economic development assistance. Commissioner Rackleff pointed out that this is an important part of the mission of rural electric cooperatives and the Board needs to ask them to step up to the plate.

- g. Asked for direction from the Board on the CRA issue. (Through negotiations between Commissioners Grippa and City Commissioner Mustian, a joint agreement had been reached and the Board approved it with an amendment at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. At that meeting, Commissioner Thael made a motion regarding Item 13 of the proposed agreement which essentially stated that there would not be a City or County-initiated Charter amendments in 2004 without joint City/County agreement.) Commissioner Grippa advised that he received a request from City Commissioner Mustian that the County not pursue Charter amendments as part of the proposed City/County joint agreement on the CRA. He explained that Commissioner Mustian stated that this opens up the door for each Commissioner to propose changes to the agreement. Commissioner Grippa pointed out that there is a push afoot for partisan elections and the CRA agreement should not be hinged or linked to that issue and should be dealt with separately.

Commissioner Thael reported that he was not a participant nor initiator in the idea of partisan elections or any other Charter amendment. He stated that #13 in the CRA agreement provides for another government to have veto power over the actions of County government; it allows contracting away the County's legislative authority to initiate changes in the Charter. Commissioner Thael advised that he would work with City Commissioner Mustian on the language in Item #13. Commissioner Thael asked the County Attorney the following question: Can the County Commission contract away their legislative authority in matters such as this. County Attorney Thiele responded that in the general term, the answer was no.

Commissioner Grippa explained he was comfortable with the language that the Board agreed upon, but Commissioner Mustian was concerned this would open up the floodgates for other amendments to the joint CRA agreement.

Commissioner Thael stated that he would continue to work out the issue with Commissioner Mustian. The Board indicated that they did not want to do anything that would jeopardize the joint CRA agreement.

Commissioner Proctor

- a. Requested adoption of a resolution for Attorney General Charlie Crist and join the legal battle against escalating gasoline prices. The Board suggested that a letter of support be sent.
- b. Requested a cost of living review or summit and that the Mayor and Chairman look into some of the following issues. Commissioner Proctor stated that Leon County has the highest electricity rates, the highest gas prices, and the highest airfares in the state of Florida relative to the size of the County. He indicated that Leon County also has the highest building cost per square foot in the North Florida area. Commissioner Proctor pointed out that government is focusing on economic development and attempting to entice people to move to this area but they are losing sight of the fact that people already living here are struggling due to the high cost of living. Commissioner Proctor suggested setting aside some of the funding that goes to EDC to address the high cost of living. It was also noted that people are moving to surrounding counties due to the cost of permitting in Leon County.

Chairman Sauls would bring up the issue of conducting a cost of living summit at the next Mayor/Chair meeting.

- c. Referred to the Internship Program (agenda Item #5) that was approved tonight, and asked that additional funds be used for the program. The County Administrator explained that Item #15 does not ask for new positions or new monies but replaces two half-time interns to one full-time intern. The Chairman advised that any additional funding for the internship would have to be discussed during budget workshops.

- d. Requested that staff bring back the Bethel CDC agenda item at the May 11, 2004 meeting. Commissioner Proctor indicated concern that this item was continuously placed on the agenda and then removed. County Administrator Alam stated that he would talk to Joe Sharp, Director of Health and Human Services, and would brief Commissioner Proctor within the next few days.
- e. Thanked staff for its support in facilitating the Community Meeting in District I. Commissioner Proctor explained that citizens have approached him indicating that they would like South Monroe Street to be changed to Southside Boulevard, starting at Gaines Street south to Capital Circle, rather than starting at McDonalds on South Monroe/Orange Avenue.
- f. Noted that the Board was not supporting Tallahassee Urban League this year and suggested that this issue be placed on the agenda. Chairman Sauls explained that on April 13, the Board considered three funding requests and one was from the Urban League. The Board did not approve the funding because the Contingency Fund was frozen, although they did unfreeze it for approval of an item.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded Grippa and carried unanimously, 7/0, to waive the Rules of Procedure and allow this item to be discussed.

Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael and carried unanimously, 7/0, to reconsider Agenda Item #4 (approve the mid-year funding request from the Sports-My-Choice in the amount of \$2,500 to come from General Fund Contingency).

Commissioner Grippa moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael and carried unanimously, 7/0, that the money to fund Sports-My-Choice Tallahassee Eagles Travel Basketball team (Agenda Item #4) come from Commissioner Grippa, District 4, Office Account so that the General Fund Contingency Account could remain frozen.

The Board noted that funding for Urban League would be discussed during budget workshops.

- g. Circulated a letter requesting that the Board accept the invitation that Clerk Inzer extended on March 29, 2004 to workshop and solicit the Board's input about the banking services contract. Commissioner Proctor suggested that the workshop take place immediately and that the Clerk delay putting the RFP out.

Chairman Sauls reported that she received a call from Clerk Inzer this afternoon and advised that he knew that Commissioner Proctor was going to bring this item forward, but he could not attend tonight. The Clerk sent a letter dated March 29, 2004 and he had not heard from any Commissioners so he is moving forward, and the bid for banking services will be released tomorrow, April 28, 2004.



Commissioner Proctor stated that this issue involves over one-half billion dollars and he would be interested in stimulating private capital. He explained that according to the Home Owners disclosure Act, one local bank made 1,900 loans, yet they do not receive any deposits from Leon County. The bank the County deals with, Wachovia, has made fewer than 100 loans within a year.

Commissioner Grippa moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Proctor to request Clerk Inzer to meet with the Board in a workshop on this issue.

Commissioner Rackleff stated that looking at only the banking aspect was too narrow an issue since this issue involves insurance companies, builders, and real estate agents. He pointed out that it is a systemic, deep-seated problem and an honest examination is needed; it goes beyond ordinary lending policies of a few banks. Commissioner Rackleff suggested additional research to find out what the real barriers are including consultation with community leaders and the minority real estate industry. He remarked that building of housing in the Southern Strategy Area should be a mainstream activity of the real estate industry and it is not.

Chairman Sauls pointed out that an RFP is not being done on banking services, but the selection will be made through a bid.

Commissioner Proctor engaged in further discussion and stated that Wachovia Bank can procure some \$300 - \$700 million dollars off of the County's money but yet they do not have to put money back into this community. He referred to the Community Reinvestment Act and stated that lenders are supposed to put something back into communities commensurate with what they are receiving. Commissioner Proctor stated that the people of Leon County are not receiving benefits from using Wachovia Bank although the County is putting some \$200 million per year in.

Commissioner Grippa amended his motion to respectively request the Clerk to hold the bid that is scheduled to go out tomorrow and give the Board an opportunity to work with them on this issue. Commissioner Proctor seconded the amendment.

The amended motion on the floor carried unanimously, 7/0.

#### Commissioner Rackleff

- a. Requested that staff bring back an agenda item that examines the feasibility of the County purchasing prescription drugs from Canada so that the Health Clinic, employees, retired employees, and jail population could receive cost benefits. Commissioner Rackleff remarked that he read an article about Montgomery County, MD, where the County Council adopted the findings of a study to do this. Commissioner Rackleff moved and was duly seconded by Commissioner Thaelle to agenda this item. Commissioner Thaelle explained that the County does not

directly purchase drugs but they contract with companies and suggested that a working group of stakeholders be put together to review the issue and that the County be the catalyst for this.

Commissioner Grippa raised the following questions:

- Is the County opening up a pharmacy
- Will the County start filling prescriptions for employees
- How does this relate to Capital Health Plan, the County's health provider
- Will the County mandate where the Clinic and Jail purchase prescriptive drugs
- Is there an Attorney General's Opinion
- Would this be legal in the State of Florida

After further discussion, the Board recommended that Commissioner Rackleff look into the issue further and bring back a report including legal issues.

#### Commissioner Winchester

- a. Noted that he has some information from DEP and requested that the Board look into the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. Normally Brownfield areas are associated with contaminated areas but they can range from downtown commercial and industrial areas as well as other types of redevelopment areas. Commissioner Winchester provided the County Administrator with a letter on this issue. Commissioner Winchester moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thael, and carried unanimously, 7/0, to workshop the Brownfield redevelopment issue.
- b. Referred to Policy 1.2.2 regarding septic tanks and the Lake Jackson Basin area off U.S. 27. He stated that he was pleased to see the County Attorney's letter regarding compliance on the issue and quoted from the letter showing that "the Public Works Department was contacted on an update on the provision of sewer service to the area in question i.e. Harbinwood Estates, and then was told that the Public Works Department is in discussion with Talquin Electric Cooperative for provision of service in that area for sewer conversion." Commissioner Winchester requested an update on this issue and remarked that he would like to be kept abreast since it involves a Comprehensive Plan policy issue and an agreement would be needed for enforcement. Staff would provide a report.

#### Commissioner Maloy

On behalf of his family, Commissioner Maloy extended appreciation to Commissioners and staff for their thoughts, prayers, and flowers during the recent death of his father-in-law.

#### Commissioner Thael

- a. Announced that Mary Cariseo of Florida Association of Counties notified him that the Legislature passed an "awesome" Article V Bill that will provide funding

to counties. The House will take up the issue tomorrow. Commissioner Thaeli thanked all the individuals that worked diligently on the issue.

- b. Announced that the Department of Juvenile Justice issue will pass in the Legislature, which will burden counties with the costs associated with the program but the State will retain authority. Commissioner Thaeli asked that staff bring back the budgetary impacts of a potentially added millage rate and/or determine where the money will come from.
- c. Commissioner Thaeli moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Grippa and carried unanimously, 7/0, to direct staff to bring back an agenda item to consider allowing employees to use Administrative leave to receive CPR training, on a voluntary basis.
- d. Remarked that Commissioner Winchester has been attempting to resolve the water runoff and pollution issue involving Tired Creek in Cairo, Georgia. Commissioner Thaeli reported that science teacher, Jennifer Hand, at Cairo High School in Grady County, had her students to conduct water testing in Tired Creek, Little Tired Creek, and Parkers Mill, specifically looking for organisms that might implicate the waters. Ms. Hand has also taken her students to look at Leon County lakes. Commissioner Thaeli suggested that a letter of commendation be sent to Ms. Hand and the Board concurred.
- e. Reminded the Board that the FAC Annual Conference is in Hollywood, Florida, June 24 – 26, 2004 at the Western Diplomat Hotel. Commissioner Thaeli encouraged Commissioners to attend and noted that special rates for FAC members and Commissioners wishing to attend should contact his Aide for information.

Commissioners wished all Mothers "Happy Mothers' Day."

#### Chairman Sauls

- a. Requested a resolution for the VolunteerLeon Youth Corp for their Volunteer of the Year Award.
- b. Request a resolution for Dr. Thorm Thagard, recognizing his induction into the Astronaut Hall of Fame.
- c. Noted that some Commissioners were not attending Board workshops and suggested that workshops not be scheduled if the Board does not plan to attend. Chairman Sauls referred to today's Jail Population Workshop, which involved the attendance of various elected officials and the full Commission was not in attendance. She urged Board members to make an effort to attend if workshops are scheduled. Commissioner Grippa suggested that after the Board approves a workshop schedule that Commissioners be notified via email alert, if possible. He

also suggested that Commissioners attend the last week of the Legislative Session and during the last week, Board meetings and workshops should not be scheduled.

- d. Asked if Commissioners liked the new chairs on the dais. If the Board is satisfied with them, they would keep them.

There being no further business to come to the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Sauls  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Inzer  
Clerk of the Circuit Court